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TO: ALL NEWS MEDIA

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FOR RELEASE: IMMEDIATELY

CIA SUBSIDIES OF NATIONAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION

A House subcommittee has been warning against the kind of covert activities at the heart of the current controversy over C.I.A. subsidies of the National Student Association for the last five years.

Congressman Dante B. Fascell, Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee that two years ago spearheaded the investigation of controversial Project Camelot today issued a formal statement on the C.I.A.--N.S.A. situation.

Fascell pointed out that his subcommittee has been warning against just such possibilities for years.

While praising President Johnson's order directing a study of C.I.A. involvement in American educational activities, the 7th term Congressman said "They (the C.I.A.) are undoubtedly active in many other fields because a need exists to meet Communist attempts to take over all kinds of international meetings and to shape them to Communist ends. But, other agencies, governmental and private, besides the C.I.A., can and should do the job effectively and publicly."

Fascell's statement follows:

"President Johnson's order directing a study of C.I.A. involvement in American educational activities is a step in the right direction. A thorough review of the covert operations which have been brought to light in the past few days is certainly needed.

"It is, however, unfortunate that we had to await this dramatic turn of events before action was taken. For the past five years the House Foreign Affairs Committee's Subcommittee on International Organizations and Movements, of which I am Chairman, has held numerous hearings and published a series of studies and reports suggesting steps needed to strengthen the U. S. ideological and political response to the Communist challenge.

"The need to strengthen our response to Communist political agitation in various international forums has been obvious for some time. The Communists have been extremely effective in utilizing every instrument -- student organizations, labor groups, artistic exchanges and other means -- to

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advance their political objectives. They have armed their political agitators and propagandists with specialized training, money, publications and every conceivable tool of their trade.

"The United States, on the other hand, has refused to respond realistically to this challenge. By and large we have left every one on our side to his own devices. When we discovered that the need for more effective effort on our part became too pressing, we resorted to the wrong approach: we permitted covert operations in instances in which they should have never been allowed!

"I am astounded that the C.I.A. has been able to conduct its activities among American students under the cover of secrecy for so many years.

"They (the C.I.A.) are undoubtedly active in many other fields because a need exists to meet Communist attempts to take over all kinds of international meetings and to shape them to Communist ends. But, other agencies, governmental and private, besides the C.I.A., can and should do the job effectively and publicly.

"What we have needed for a long time and what our Subcommittee has repeatedly recommended is a more realistic approach to those activities -- private and governmental -- which by their very nature and by their impact on foreign audiences either strengthen or tear down America's image on the international scene.

"We must face the fact that American participation in international student activities -- as well as our books, movies, cultural exchanges and the overseas operations of the multitude of our private groups -- that all of these things, whether we like it or not, have a political connotation.

"What we must do is to devise ways -- certainly other than covert C.I.A. operations -- to help those activities to make a positive impact on our posture abroad.

"One of the possibilities the U. S. should consider is the establishment of a national commission, composed of outstanding civic, educational, labor and industrial, as well as religious leaders, to survey private exchanges with other countries, to encourage American private participation in worthwhile international activities, and to provide assistance to those constructive activities which presently do not command sufficient private support.

"We should seriously consider providing a limited tax exemption -- of the type presently enjoyed by various foundations -- to private contributions to such a national commission.

"And, above all, we must make certain that the activities of such a commission be conducted in full view of the public both here and abroad. Otherwise, we will be negating our whole purpose.

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"There is tremendous strength in the openness of our society, in the great diversity of our private international activities, and in the fabric of our democratic processes.

"We must not undermine this heritage, or blunt the effectiveness of our initiatives on the international scene, by placing our reliance on covert operations. Neither can we ignore the pressing need for imaginative action in this field. Either of these two courses will lead to further difficulties."

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